

letters

ICRN REPLIES...

To the Editor-in Chief,

In your article of 9/18/73 on, "WNTC Seeks Licence and Incorporation", you raised many questions which we would like to answer. The Federal Communications Commission asks three main questions of an applicant for a construction permit for a radio station.

First is the applicant legally qualified in the FCC's eyes? The new WNTC will be operated by the Inter-College Radio Network, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation under article 402 of the New York State not-for-profit corporation law. It will have a six person board of directors, of which four will be the present ICRN board with two prominent citizens of the area filling the other positions. As is required by law, board elections will be held each year which will change the composition of the board.

As for the question of whether a not-for-profit corporation can hold a commercial license, Cornell University has a student operated commercial FM Stereo station WVBR, on the air since around 1958, which is now approaching the number one position in both audience size and advertising income in its region. Also in August the New York State departments of Justice, Education, Social Services and State have all given tentative approval to the incorporation as, "a progressive idea with great educational and public service merit".

WNTC with 25 years of radio broadcasting experience handed down, and an actual working station today. Has a greater degree of professionalism than many already licensed commercial stations in the country.

Technically WNTC is ahead of many applicants for licenses in that we already have proven studio facilities. Upon receiving an FCC license the station will acquire new transmitting facilities to replace the present carrier current transmitter system. As for technically qualifying for a license, depending upon the choice of a local or regional channel, at least two frequencies are open.

The United States government through its Small Business Administration and regional New York State Economic Development agencies are continually putting up millions of dollars to provide the backing needed for ideas similar in nature to what we have proposed. Even if government backed funds are not available, \$12,000.00 of the necessary moneys have already been secured through a New York City based finance company.

Hopefully this has answered your questions.

Sincerely,
Gary E. Landrio
Director Coordination and Planning
ICRN

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, this has not answered the questions raised.

First of all, while a not-for-profit corporation, may, as you say, hold a commercial license, will the F.C.C. look upon the corporation and board of directors that you envision as a "legally, financially and professionally qualified group"? You cited Cornell's station as an example, but there, the license is held by Cornell University, not by students. You say that WNTC has a "greater degree of professionalism" - what is your criteria? What does 25 years of "being on the air" have to do with the professionalism of the I.C.R.N. board members? And what does the availability of two frequencies have to do with technical qualifications?

The fact (?) that the U.S. government is "continually putting up millions of dollars" says nothing about the financial capabilities of the board members.

Also, the finance company through which funds have "already been secured" may raise other questions, as to your connections with the company. (Mr. Landrio's cousin founded the 'Fulton National Group, Inc.' and Mr. Landrio has been employed by the company for four years.)